

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 66, 68-73, 75-94 and 96-106 are pending herein. Claim 94 has been amended to recite that the infiltrating metal alloy has an initial coefficient of thermal conductivity of not less than 60 W/mK, as supported by, for example, original specification page 9, lines 2-5. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending herein define patentable subject matter over the applied prior art cited in PTO Paper No. 12 (mailed May 19, 2003).

The Examiner is requested to confirm receipt and consideration of the IDS filed October 5, 2001.

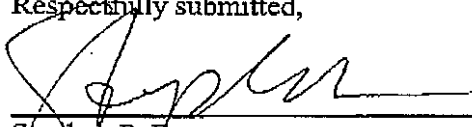
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, she is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

January 22, 2004

Date



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